

In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Utrök that committed the DOE to build a Whole Body Counting (WBC) facility in order to monitor radioactivity levels in the people of Utrök. This new facility is located about 265 miles away in Majuro and will be used to ensure that the potassium fertilizer regime is effective and the administration of the fertilizer treatment is done properly.

However, Utrök residents are responsible for their own transportation to Majuro. Transportation by plane is expensive and available only once per week. Air service is also unreliable as the Utrök runway is in disrepair and the airline often declines to land. Travel by commercial ships, although less expensive, is infrequent.

One solution to help facilitate transport between Utrök and Majuro is to transfer a decommissioned NOAA vessel to the Utrök Atoll Local Government. In addition to transport of Utrök residents to the WBC facility, the vessel will be used for moving several tons of potassium fertilizer, transporting equipment and materials for radiological remediation, and transporting USDA food supplies. Because of the Cesium-137 contamination in locally grown food, at least 50 percent of the diet of Utrök residents must be imported to limit the risk of radiological poisoning.

The Utrök Atoll Local Government fully supports this measure and adopted a resolution (022-03) on July 4th 2003 stating that the NOAA vessel transfer would be "one of the crucial needs that will fully support our future goals to develop, rehabilitate and resettle the atoll after the aftermath of the Bravo fallout." The Utrök Government also expects the ship to be available for use by other atolls for their respective communities, who will help pay for the ongoing maintenance of the vessel.

As the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I am hopeful that this bill will remind Congress of our ongoing responsibility to the people of RMI for the mistakes the United States made regarding its nuclear testing activities in the Asia Pacific region. Once again, I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for their support and I urge final passage of this important legislation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2584.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2584, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

VAUGHN GROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3723) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the "Vaughn Gross Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3723

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. VAUGHN GROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Vaughn Gross Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Vaughn Gross Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3723. This meaningful legislation designates the Dallas Postal Service facility as the "Vaughn Gross Post Office Building."

Vaughn Gross has spent 35 years educating children in Texas and more than 30 of those years working in the Richardson Independent School District outside of Dallas. She began her career in the district by teaching special education classes at Skyview and Canyon Creek Elementary Schools in the 1970s. She later taught second grade students for 5 years at Northlake Elementary.

Ultimately, Vaughn Gross worked her way up to become Assistant Prin-

cipal at Aiken Elementary in 1989. In 1992, she held the same position at Brenfield Elementary School. A year later, she was elevated to Principal, a capacity in which she served for 6 years. In 1999, Vaughn Gross moved over to Hamilton Park Magnet School to act as principal there. Today, Ms. Gross is Assistant Superintendent For Curriculum and Instruction in the Richardson School District.

Mr. Speaker, Vaughn Gross is a respected, appreciated leader in the Dallas area. She earned a Teacher of the Year Award from the Richardson Association of Children with Learning Disabilities in 1977 and PTA life membership status in 1999. She is precisely the type of quality individual after whom the Congress ought to name post offices in our great Nation.

I commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for introducing H.R. 3723. I know the gentleman from Texas genuinely wanted to be present, and I will be submitting a statement for the RECORD on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge every Member of the House to support H.R. 3723.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3723, legislation naming a postal facility in Dallas, Texas, after Vaughn Gross. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) on January 21, 2004, and unanimously reported by our committee on March 4, 2004, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Texas delegation.

A graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in special education, Mrs. Gross has dedicated her life to teaching and working with children with learning disabilities. Her vast teaching experience has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Mrs. Gross has won the distinguished Teacher of the Year from the Richardson Association of Children with Learning Disabilities and has achieved the Parent Teacher Association life membership status.

Currently, Mrs. Gross is serving as the Assistant Superintendent in the Richardson Independent School District. She is involved in a number of community organizations such as the Psychoanalysis Professional Development and Appraisal System, the District Instructional Strategies Committee, the Central Math Textbook Committee, and the Richardson Independent School District Professional Development Strategic Action Team.

And, finally, Mrs. Gross has received her school district's Silver Cup Award for Community on Campus and has been nominated for the YMCA Women of Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that Mrs. Gross has a distinguished record of